

## State of Utah Department of Commerce Division of Securities

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

## CHARGES FILED IN SKI EQUIPMENT FRAUD

December 16, 2005. . . Salt Lake City, UT. Francine A. Giani, Executive Director of the Utah Department of Commerce announced today that the Utah Attorney General filed criminal charges against William Charles Miller. Miller, from Ogden, was charged with seven felonies for violating securities laws and one count of engaging in a pattern of unlawful activity. The case was filed in Second District Court in Ogden.

Miller has two prior criminal convictions for securities fraud and weapons violations. According to the criminal pleadings, during 2003 and 2004 Miller solicited over \$25,000 from investors for a business that would manufacture ski goggles and SCUBA goggles. Investors were promised stock in Miller's company and a share of the company profits. Miller is charged with fraud for misrepresenting his role in the companies, falsely claiming investors would triple their investment in a year, misrepresenting the nature of the ski goggle industry, and falsely promising that investor monies were secured by assets of the company. Some the investors were not told of Miller's prior criminal convictions, bankruptcy, and outstanding unpaid judgments against him.

The charges against Miller include three counts of securities fraud, three counts of selling unregistered securities, one count of violating a 2002 Order by the Division of Securities to cease and desist selling unregistered securities, and one count of a pattern of unlawful activity. If convicted, Miller could be sentenced to as much as 15 years in prison. Miller currently is a fugitive on the earlier securities fraud case and still owes \$448,000 in restitution to victims.